

Message Text

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S E C R E T GENEVA 8932

NODIS

FOR SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: MEETING WITH GAYLARD ON
NOVEMBER 10

1. JACK GAYLARD ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM AT HIS HOTEL
THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 10.

2. WHILE WE WERE MEETING, A MESSAGE CAME FROM
SALISBURY CONFIRMING THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD RECEIVE
SENATOR CLARK AT HIS FARM ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15.
ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY BETWEEN CLARK,
AMBASSADOR BOWDLER AND HAWKINS IN PRETORIA.

3. GAYLARD SAID THAT HE WAS MOST INTERESTED IN HOW
THE BRITISH INTENDED TO HANDLE THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER
THE FORMATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. HE SUGGESTED
THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT Q

BEGIN BILATERALLY AND NOT IN PLENARY SESSION. IF
THE CONSULTATIONS START IN PLENARY SESSION, THE AFRICAN
NATIONALISTS MAY FEEL OBLIGED TO ADVANCE MAXIMUM
POSITIONS FROM WHICH THEY WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN RETREATING.
IN THAT EVENT THE CONFERENCE WILL FACE A NEW DONNYBROOK
SIMILAR TO THE ONE IT IS FACING OVER THE DATE OF
INDEPENDENCE.

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4. IF THE BRITISH CALL FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF POSITIONS IN PLENARY, THE RHODESIANS WOULD BE FORCED TO ADVANCE THE FIVE POINTS AS THEIR APPROACH TO THE STRUCTURE OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT. "BY RUNNING THIS POSITION UP THE MAST," GAYLARD SAID, THE AFRICANS WOULD REJECT A TWO TIER INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND THE CONFERENCE WOULD REACH AN IMPASSE. IN GAYLARD'S JUDGMENT, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SELL A TWO TIER APPROACH TO THE AFRICANS CAREFULLY AND QUIETLY IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. THE NATIONALISTS ARE CERTAIN TO REJECT ANY PROPOSAL THE RHODESIANS MAKE, AND IF A TWO TIER SOLUTION IS TO BE NEGOTIATED, IT MUST COME AS AN AMERICAN-BRITISH SUGGESTION, GAYLARD SAID. ALTERNATIVELY, IF THE BRITISH PLAY THEIR HAND WISELY, THE PROPOSAL COULD BE TURNED INTO AN AFRICAN SUGGESTION.

5. COMMENT: GAYLARD IS ASKING FOR OUR SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER. HE WISHES US TO URGE THE BRITISH TO PROCEED ON A BILATERAL RATHER THAN A PLENARY BASIS. HIS ARGUMENT THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BECOME UNSTUCK IF THE RHODESIANS ARE FORCED TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION, IS SOUND. HE WANTS HIS DELEGATION TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SILENCE.

6. I SEE MERIT IN GAYLARD'S SUGGESTION, BUT BEFORE PASSING IT TO THE BRITISH WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LETTING ME HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS. ABRAMS

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